

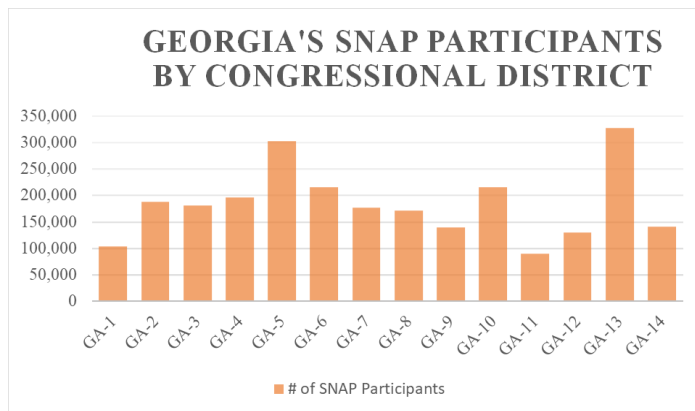
SNAPing a Lifeline for Georgia's Children and Families: How Washington Republicans Are Robbing Georgia's Poor to Pay the Rich

To pay for their giveaway to billionaires, Washington Republicans are planning a \$290 billion dollar cut to programs that provide food to America's vulnerable children, seniors, and people with disabilities. Georgia would be one of the hardest-hit states, with a projected loss of over \$860 million, disproportionately in Georgia's rural communities.

SNAP Facts

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is the nation's most effective anti-hunger program and a successful anti-poverty tool. By helping vulnerable families supplement their budget by just \$6.16 per day, SNAP lifts millions of Americans out of poverty each year.¹

In 2024, SNAP served 42 million Americans in need.² Of these recipients, 2 in 3 were either a child, a senior, or an adult with a disability.³ Indeed, the overwhelming majority of multi-person households (96%) participating in SNAP included at least one child, senior, or a person with a disability.⁴



Source: Georgia Budget & Policy Institute

Georgia's SNAP Participants

- **1 in 8 Georgians** —1.4 million Georgians from nearly 694,000 households —rely on SNAP.⁵
- In 2024, more than 69% of Georgia's SNAP participants were in families with children.⁶
- More than 28% of SNAP participants were in families with members who are older adults or disabled.⁷
- Georgia's residents in small towns and rural areas are disproportionately likely to rely on SNAP.⁸
- Over 77% of the Georgia counties with the highest rates of SNAP participants are rural.⁹

- Between 2015 and 2019, SNAP lifted 250,000 Georgians, including 112,000 children, above the poverty line each year.¹⁰

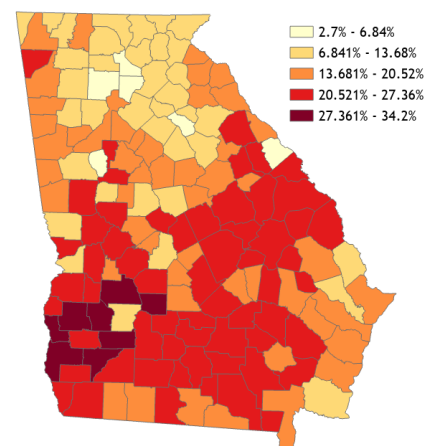
Economic Benefits of SNAP in Georgia

By helping families spend their dollars locally, SNAP also supports rural economies.¹¹

Every dollar of federal investment in SNAP generates \$1.79 in economic activity.¹² In 2023, stores and retailers in Georgia saw revenues of over \$3.6 billion from SNAP benefits.¹³

Additionally, rural communities in Georgia use SNAP at higher rates than urban communities,¹⁴ and they benefit more from the program as it boosts rural economies more during times of economic downturn.¹⁵ **Business owners in rural counties are at the highest risk of being harmed by cuts to SNAP.**¹⁶

Percentage of County Population Receiving SNAP Benefits



Source: Center for American Progress



Tax Cuts for the Wealthy By Creating a Massive, Unfunded State Mandate

With control of the House, Senate, and White House, Washington Republicans are rushing through a massive budget reconciliation bill that terminates funding for lifesaving programs like SNAP to pay for their tax cuts for billionaires.

While Congressional Republicans have repeatedly claimed that they will not cut SNAP benefits,¹⁷ they are trying to hide **\$290 billion**,¹⁸ in SNAP cuts by passing the buck and shifting the costs to states.

One of the most alarming pathways to these cuts is Congressional Republicans' proposal to shift up to 25% of SNAP program costs to states.

According to the House Republicans' bill provisions advanced by the House Agriculture Committee on May 14, 2025 along party lines, beginning in 2028, Washington Republicans would require all states to pay a 5% cost-share.¹⁹ States that have higher payment error rates (the combination of benefit overpayment and underpayment rates) would have to pay even more.²⁰

Massive Hit to the Georgia Budget and Economy

Under this proposal, **Georgia would be shouldered with the maximum penalty**: a 25% cost share at about **\$812 million per year**.²¹

Congressional Republicans may say this is a way to cut "waste, fraud, and abuse," but payment error rates are not a fraud rate, they are a measure of how accurately a state SNAP agency calculates a household's benefits. Moreover, states are already on the hook to pay penalties for persistently high error rates, half of which they are permitted to reinvest in their administrative systems to prevent future errors.²²

Additionally, all states would be required to pay 75% of the administrative costs for SNAP, an increase of 25%. That's another estimated **\$55 million that Georgia will be forced to pay per year**.²³

In total, Georgia could be on the hook for an additional **\$867 million** in new costs on the state budget. That's equivalent to **84%** of Georgia's Department of Human Services entire budget for 2026.²⁴

States will have to take drastic measures, like cutting benefits from children, seniors, and individuals with disabilities to absorb this staggering cost.

Make no mistake: Washington Republicans want to take food away from children, seniors, and people with disabilities to pay for a giveaway to billionaires.

"Washington Republicans' plan to terminate funding for lifesaving programs that help working families cover the cost of groceries to pay for tax cuts for billionaires is not only immoral, it hurts our economy," said Senator Reverend Raphael Warnock. "This proposal is bad for Georgia. It'll make it more likely that children, seniors, veterans and individuals with disabilities go hungry. I will do everything in my power to protect these critical programs and help the many families across Georgia that are just trying to get by."



Endnotes

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- 7 *Id.*
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- 10 Georgia Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, *supra* note 6.
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- 14 Table 2. Household SNAP Participants in Metro, Small Town, and Rural Counties, by State, 2017-2021, Food Research & Action Center (2022), <https://frac.org/maps/snap-state-map/tables/snap-states-tab2.html>.
- 15 Stephen Vogel, Cristina Miller, and Katherine Ralston, *Impact of USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) on Rural and Urban Economies in the Aftermath of the Great Recession*, U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service (Oct. 5, 2021), <https://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/pub-details?pubid=102286>.
- 16 Ross and Andara, *supra* note 9.
- 17 Jordan Wolman, *Thompson: No SNAP Cuts in Reconciliation*, Politico (Feb. 14, 2025), <https://www.politico.com/live-updates/2025/02/14/congress/thompson-no-snap-cuts-in-reconciliation-00204365>.
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